

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

Gf Closure

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 300543Z APR 86 STAFF

CITE FBIS/GULF 10067 SECTION 01 OF 03

cc:c/mod

TO: FBIS, FBIS/LONDON, FBIS/NICOSIA, FBIS/AMMAN, FBIS/TEL
AVIV,
FBIS/BANGKOK.

RYBAT

SUBJECT: GF OPERATIONS PHASEDOWN--INITIAL COVERAGE TRANSFER

[REDACTED] BUREAU CHIEFS FROM [REDACTED]

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1. GULF BUREAU RECOMMENDS THAT THE INITIAL STAGE OF ITS OPERATIONS PHASEDOWN TAKE EFFECT ON THURSDAY, 12 JUNE, TO ALLOW [REDACTED] TO DEPART FOR LATERAL TRANSFER ON THE 14TH. THE BUREAU FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT DURING THIS INITIAL STAGE IT OPERATE TWO SHIFTS, 0400-2030 GMT, SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY, AND THAT OTHER BUREAUS TAKE UP COVERAGE AS OUTLINED BELOW ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. AFTER STUDYING MOD'S PROPOSAL THAT THE BUREAU CLOSE ON FRIDAYS AND OPERATE HALF DAYS (1130-2030 GMT) ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, GF ELIEVES THERE ARE VERY STRONG REASONS FOR PREFERRING ELIMINATION OF ALL OPERATIONS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY INSTEAD TO MEET THE 10-EDITORIAL-SHIFT-WEEK TARGET:

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A. FIRST AND FOREMOST IS THE PROBLEM OF COVERAGE COORDINATION THAT WOULD ARISE FROM SPLITTING COVERAGE AT MID-DAY ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS. IF GF BEGAN OPERATIONS AT 1130 ON THOSE DAYS, IT WOULD BE FACED WITH MAJOR PROGRAMS IMMEDIATELY UPON OOB. TO AVOID DUPLICATE PROCESSING, IMMEDIATE PROCESSING FYI'S WOULD BE NEEDED ON OTHER BUREAUS' MORNING COVERAGE OF MANAMA WAKH, RIYADH RADIO AND SPA, AND THE SANAA 1030 CAST. THERE WOULD BE LITTLE TIME FOR THESE MESSAGES PLUS TRAFFIC FILED DURING OUT CLOSURE PERIOD TO CLEAR COMMO BEFORE THE GF DUTY EDITOR NEEDED TO BEGIN MAKING SELECTION AND PROCESSING DECISIONS. THE COORDINATION PROCESS WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE REVERSED WHEN THE BUREAU CLOSED AGAIN AT 2030 TO PASS COVERAGE OF THE LATE NIGHT RIYADH SOURCES BACK TO LD/BBC. THIS COORDINATION PROCESS WOULD BE BOTH HIGHLY INEFFICIENT AND TROUBLESOME, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF GF'S SLOW SPEED COMMO CIRCUIT. WE CANNOT BELIEVE THE BUREAUS PICKING UP THIS COVERAGE WOULD WELCOME THE BURDEN OF EXTRA COORDINATION ANY

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MORE THAN WE WOULD HERE.

B. HALF DAY CLOSURES ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE WEEKEND AT THE BUREAUS ASSUMING COVERAGE, PRESUMABLY MAKING THEIR STAFFING SITUATIONS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BAHRAIN IS THE ONLY BUREAU WHERE THURSDAY IS A DAY OF THE WEEKEND. EVERYONE INVOLVED WOULD BE BEST SERVED, WE THINK, BY MAKING IT ONE OF THE DAYS ON WHICH GF COVERAGE IS TRANSFERRED.

C. THE 5-DAY WORK WEEK WOULD ELIMINATE ONE MORE BUSY EVENING SHIFT THAN THE MOD PROPOSAL. THIS WOULD EASE THE BURDEN ON GF'S ALREADY SHORTHANDED COMMO SECTION AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR GF TO FREE ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO MONITORS FOR EARLY TRANSFER TO ONE OF THE BUREAUS THAT WILL BE PICKING UP COVERAGE.

2. GF CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING SOURCES AS ESSENTIAL COVERAGE THAT SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER BUREAUS ON THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS. THEY ARE LISTED UNDER THE BUREAUS THAT WE BELIEVE COULD MOST LOGICALLY HANDLE THE COVERAGE. ALL ARE CLASS A OR B:

A. LD/BBC WOULD TAKE:

1) IRAN

TEHRAN DOMESTIC PERSIAN 0330, 0430, 0530, 0630--BBC IS LIKELY TO INSIST ON DELAYED PROCESSING AFTER THEIR MONITORS REPORT AT 0730. THE 0330 AND 0430 CASTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW MILITARY OFFENSIVES, SO DELAYED PROCESSING IS UNFORTUNATE BUT CANNOT BE HELPED UNLESS NC OR TA IS PREPARED TO TAKE ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY. THE 0530 NAD 0630 CASTS ARE FAR LESS PRODUCTIVE, AND THE 0630 CAST IS NOT CARRIED ON FRIDAYS.

2) SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH RADIO AND SPA THROUGHOUT THE DAY--BELIEVE BOTH THESE SOURCES MUST BE HANDLED AS A PACKAGE BY LD/BBC TEMPORARILY UNTIL JN ACQUIRES SPA SERVICE, AT WHICH TIME IT COULD TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE SAUDI PACKAGE. WHILE JN COULD TAKE UP RIYADH RADIO IMMEDIATELY, SIMULTANEOUS SPLIT COVERAGE OF THE TWO SOURCES WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COORDINATE AND WOULD RESULT IN A LARGE VOLUME OF DUPLICATE PROCESSING. GF HAS PROVIDED POINT OF CONTACT INFOR-

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MATION FOR ACQUIRING SPA SERVICE TO C/JN, BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO ME THAT JN CAN ACQUIRE THE SERVICE IN TIME FOR THE INITIAL STAGE OF GF'S PHASEDOWN. I ALSO ASSUME BBC WOULD CONTINUE TO COVER AFTER JN'S 2100 GMT COB, AS THEY DO NOW.

--FBIS SHOULD CONSIDER LOANING AN ARABIC MONITOR TO BBC WHILE THIS COVERAGE IS ITS RESPONSIBILITY. A PMU MONITOR MIGHT BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE UNTIL GF CAN TRANSFER SOMEONE TO LD (PROBABLY

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--WE SEE NO MERIT IN MOD'S PROPOSAL THAT GF CONTINUE TO PRINT SPA WHILE THE BUREAU IS CLOSED. AS WE BEGIN TRANSFERRING MONITORS, WE WILL NOT HAVE THE MANPOWER TO REVIEW A 2-DAY FILE WHEN WE REOPEN ON SATURDAY, AND SINCE THIS IS CURRENT COVERAGE IT WOULD BE OF LITTLE VALUE 2 DAYS LATER ANYWAY. AS A LANDLINE SERVICE, BACKSTOPPING FOR RECEPTION IS NOT REQUIRED.

--RIYADH TV IS WELL RECEIVED AND CAN BE RECORDED BY TIMER AT GF FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING FOR VSL'S. AS FOR ANY OTHER PROCESSING, IT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME PROBLEMS OF TIMELINESS AND MANPOWER CONSTRAINTS AS MENTIONED ABOVE. SINCE THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ONLY SHORT-TERM, WE MIGHT AS WELL DECIDE NOW WHETHER THIS SOURCE IS WORTH SATELLITE MONITORING OR IS SIMPLY TO BE DROPPED WHEN GF CLOSURES COMPLETELY.

--ALL JEDDAH COVERAGE CAN BE DROPPED IN VIEW OF OTHER SOURCES AVAILABLE.

B. JORDAN BUREAU WOULD TAKE:

1) GULF STATES:

--MANAMA WAKH ARABIC 0500-1500, 1700-2100 (CLASS A)---THIS SERVICE ALSO CARRIES ONA, QNA, WAM. JN ALREADY COVERS THE LAST HOUR OF TRANSMISSION DAILY.

--MANAMA WAKH ENGLISH 1500-1700 (CLASS A)---GF HAS NO RECORD OF MONITORABILITY OF THIS SERVICE AT JN. IF UNRECEIVED, THE ARABIC SERVICE WILL SUFFICE.

--MUSCAT DOMESTIC ARABIC 1300-1330---THIS IS THE ONLY CLASS A RADIO PROGRAM MONITORED FROM GCC STATES OTHER THAN SAUDI ARABIA. THE WAKH CIRCUIT, NEWSPAPERS, AND MUSCAT RADIO ACCOUNT FOR OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE WORDAGE PRODUCED FROM THE GULF STATES, SO

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OTHER RADIOS ARE VERY MARGINAL SOURCES INDEED THAT SHOULD BE DROPPED.

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2) YAR, PDRY

--SANAA DOMESTIC ARABIC 0430, 1700 (CLASS A)--DEPENDING ON MONITORABILITY, THIS COVERAGE MAY REQUIRE SUBSTITUTION OF PROGRAMS NOW LISTED AS CLASS B.

--ADEN DOMESTIC SERVICE AND ANA IN ARABIC--COVERAGE WILL DEPEND ON MONITORABILITY. NOTHING APPROACHING THE CURRENT LEVEL OF COVERAGE WILL BE POSSIBLE, EVEN IN A SPLIT WITH EAU. ANA ENGLISH HAS NOT BEEN MONITORABLE AT GF FOR MONTHS; PRESUMABLY IT CANNOT BE MONITORED ELSEWHERE EITHER.

3) SAUDI ARABIA--JN WILL TAKE THE RIYADH RADIO/SPA PACKAGE UNTIL 2100 GMT ONCE IT ACQUIRES SPA SERVICE.

4) IRAN--TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ARABIC--SEVEN BROADCASTS ON THURSDAY, FOUR ON FRIDAY, ALL CLASS A OR B. SINCE JN'S RECEPTION IS PROBLEMATIC, NO SHOULD PLAN TO BACKSTOP OR COVER IF ITS RECEPTION PERMITS. WE CONSIDER THIS A VERY IMPORTANT SOURCE; IF NEITHER BUREAU CAN COVER ADEQUATELY, GF WILL HAVE TO RECORD IMPORTANT SEGMENTS, SUCH AS THE WEEKLY ARABIC SERMON ON FRIDAY. SOME LONG-TERM SOLUTION, SUCH AS A BAHRAIN RELAY SITE, MAY ALSO BE JUSTIFIED.

C. NICOSIA BUREAU WOULD TAKE:

1) IRAN

--(CLANDESTINE) RADIO IRAN PERSIAN 1330-1400--PER MOD PLAN.

--TEHRAN DOMESTIC PERSIAN--BACKSTOP BBC FOR FEED OR COVERAGE; POSSIBLE COVERAGE OF EARLY MORNING CASTS.

--TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL ARABIC--BACKSTOP JN OR ASSUME COVERAGE, RECEPTION PERMITTING.

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2) GULF STATES--MANAMA WAKH ARABIC AND ENGLISH--BACKSTOP JN OR ASSUME COVERAGE.

D. TEL AVIV WOULD TAKE:

--(CLANDESTINE) FREE VOICE OF ITRAN PERSIAN 1500-1600 (CLASS A)--PER MOD PLAN.

--(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF THE LIBERATION OF IRAN PERSIAN 1630-1820 (CLASS A)--PER MOD PLAN.

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--ADEN DOMESTIC ARABIC--ASSIST JN AS RECEPTION AND ARABIC STAFFING PERMIT.

--OMDURMAN DOMESTIC ARABIC 0430-0445 (CLASS A)--ALTHOUGH LISTED AS CLASS A COVERAGE, THIS PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN HEARD AT GF FOR MANY MONTHS, AS REPORTED IN PERIODIC CRUISING MESSAGES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE RECEPTION OR STAFFING WILL PERMIT EAU TO PICK IT UP EITHER, BUT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE TRIED AND CHECKED REGULARLY.

F. BANGKOK BUREAU MAY WISH TO TRY KABUL ENGLISH TO SOUTH ASIA 0900-1030 AS LISTED IN THE MOD PLAN. IT IS, HOWEVER, CLASS C COVERAGE, AND WE SEE NO GREAT LOSS IF IT IS DROPPED ON THURSDAY/FRIDAY.

3. GF PROPOSES DROPPING THE FOLLOWING COVERAGE ON THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS:

A. CLANDESTINES: VOICE OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION OF AFGHANISTAN IN PASHTO AND IN DARI, VOICE OF AL-AHVAZ REVOLUTION--PRODUCTIVITY OF THESE SOURCES IS ALMOST NIL.

B. AFGHANISTAN: KABUL INTERNATIONAL ARABIC--CLASS C.

C. BAHRAIN: MANAMA DOMESTIC ARABIC 1530, MANAMA TV ARABIC 1700, MANAMA TV ENGLISH 1600--ALL IRREGULAR COVERAGE; ADEQUATELY COVERED BY WAKH.

D. IRAN:

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--ALL REGIONAL RADIOS IN PERSIAN--THIS IS UNPRODUCTIVE CLASS B AND C COVERAGE NOT CARRIED ON FRIDAYS. MOD'S SUGGESTION THAT THE PROGRAMS BE RECORDED IS NOT PRACTICAL SINCE IT WOULD REQUIRE SOME STAFFING TO ACCOMPLISH, AND IT WOULD BE ENORMOUSLY TIME CONSUMING TO REVIEW THE TAPES, WITH NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT ANYTHING WOULD BE PRODUCED.

--TEHRAN TV IN ARABIC, ENGLISH, AND PERSIAN--ALL CLASS B. AGAIN, MOD'S SUGGESTION THAT THESE PROGRAMS BE RECORDED WOULD REQUIRE STAFFING OF THE BUREAU. ALL TEHRAN TV RECEPTION IS SO VARIABLE THAT IT REQUIRES MANUAL TUNING, MAKING TIMER RECORDING IMPOSSIBLE. EVEN WITH MANUAL TUNING, THERE IS OFTEN NO RECEPTION OF IRANIAN TV SOURCES.

--INTERNATIONAL SERVICES: MASHHAD IN DARI, TABRIZ IN AZERI, AND TEHRAN IN TURKISH--CLASS B AND C COVERAGE NOT BROADCAST ON FRIDAYS.

--TEHRAN IRNA ARABIC--CLASS C COVERAGE THAT HAS PRODUCED NOTHING IN MY EXPERIENCE AT GF.

E. IRAQ: BAGHDAD TV PERSIAN--CLASS C: RECEPTION CONDITIONS PRECLUDE TIMER RECORDING.

F. OMAN: SALALAH RADIO--COVERED BY MUSCAT AND WAKH/QNA.

G. QATAR: DOHA RADIO AND TV--ADEQUATELY COVERED BY WAKH/QNA AND OTHER SOURCES.

H. SAUDI ARABIA: JEDDAH RADIO--ADEQUATELY COVERED BY RIYADH RADIO AND SPA.

I. UAE: ABU DHABI DOMESTIC ARABIC 0900 (CLASS B)--ADEQUATELY COVERED BY WAKH/WAM.

J. USSR: SELECTED CASTS FROM REGIONAL RADIOS ARE RECORDED DAILY AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE. OTHER SOVIET REGIONALS ARE CLASS C AND D COVERAGE AND/OR ARE COVERED BY BBC ON A DELAYED BASIS; THESE ARE NOT WORTH THE STAFFING REQUIRED TO TUNE AND RECORD SO THEY WILL BE DROPPED.

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[REDACTED] BUREAU CHIEFS FROM [REDACTED]

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4. GF WILL MAINTAIN ITS NEWSPAPER COVERAGE DURING THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE PHASEDOWN. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR BUREAUS TO BEGIN EXPLORING WHETHER AND HOW THEY WILL ACQUIRE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO NEWSPAPERS THAT ARE NOW COVERED BY GF. THE NUMBER OF ARABIC NEWSPAPERS INVOLVED WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY EXCEED JN'S CAPACITY TO SCAN AND PROCESS, SO SOME LOAD-SHARING ARRANGEMENT WITH PMU WILL BE REQUIRED. BANGKOK WILL, PRESUMABLY, TAKE OVER THE PAKISTANI PAPERS.

5. TO AVOID AN UNMANAGEABLE COMMO BACKLOG ON SATURDAY MORNING, THE BUREAU WILL PLAN TO BRING AN EDITOR AND COMMUNICATOR IN AT LEAST PART-TIME ON FRIDAYS TO RECEIVE, LOG, AND DISTRIBUTE INCOMING TRAFFIC. GF'S DROP-COPY REQUIREMENTS WILL ALSO BE REDUCED AT THE SAME TIME.

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6. WITH FEWER SHIFTS TO STAFF, GF WILL BE READY TO BEGIN TRANSFERRING A FEW MONITORS ALONG WITH COVERAGE. WITH JN TAKING THE BRUNT OF THE COVERAGE TRANSFER, BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE THE FIRST PRIORITY FOR ARABIC MONITOR ASSISTANCE. [REDACTED]

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7. THE TDY ADMIN OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN PROMISED SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE IN THE THIRD WEEK OF JUNE IF IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE WILL BEGIN TRANSFERRING TCN'S BY THAT TIME OR A BIT LATER. HE/SHE WILL, IN ANY CASE, WANT TO HAVE A FEW DAYS TO GET ESTABLISHED AND MAKE SOME CONTACTS BEFORE THINGS GET TOO HECTIC.

8. DECL OADR DRV COL 14-82 BY [REDACTED]
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